

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are now remain pending in this application, with Claims 1, 7 and 8 being independent. Claims 1-7 have been amended and Claim 8 is newly-presented herein.

Initially, Applicant notes that acknowledgment of the claim for priority or receipt of certified copy of the priority document has not been acknowledged in the Office Action. Since a certified copy of the priority document was filed on May 24, 2004, acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and of receipt of the certified copy of the priority document is respectfully requested.

Applicant filed both an Information Disclosure Statement on May 24, 2004, and a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on June 14, 2004. Neither of those Information Disclosure Statements have been acknowledged in the Office Action. An indication of consideration of the information cited in those Information Disclosure Statements, including returning an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 provided with the earlier Information Disclosure Statement, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,527,360 (Otsuki et al.). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Otsuki et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0080554 (Kim). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to an inkjet printing apparatus, which has a carriage incorporating an inkjet printhead where nozzles for discharging ink are arranged in a predetermined direction, and performs printing by scanning the carriage with respect to a printing medium in a direction orthogonal to the predetermined direction. The apparatus includes first and second conveyance means and nozzle setting means. The first and second conveyance means are arranged at an upstream side and a downstream side with respect to a printing-medium conveyance direction of an area of the printing medium scanned by the printhead, for conveying the printing medium while holding the printing medium. The nozzle setting means, when the printing medium is held only by one of the first and second conveyance means, sets a nozzle to be used for printing from nozzles for which a distance between a discharge surface of each nozzle and a printing surface of the printing medium falls within a predetermined range, in accordance with a position of the printing medium in the printing-medium conveyance direction.

As recited in independent Claim 7, the present invention relates to a control method of an inkjet printing apparatus, having a carriage incorporating an inkjet printhead where nozzles for discharging ink are arranged in a predetermined direction, for

performing printing by scanning the carriage with respect to a printing medium in a direction orthogonal to the predetermined direction. The apparatus has first and second conveyance means that are arranged at an upstream side and a downstream side with respect to a printing-medium conveyance direction of an area of the printing medium scanned by the printhead. The method includes the step of determining whether or not the printing medium is held only by one of the first and second conveyance means based on a position of the printing medium in the printing-medium conveyance direction. The method further includes a nozzle setting step of, when the determining step determines that the printing medium is held only by one of the first and second conveyance means, setting a nozzle to be used for printing from nozzles for which a distance between a discharge surface of each nozzle and a printing surface of the printing medium falls within a predetermined range.

As recited in independent Claim 8, the present invention relates to an inkjet printing apparatus, which has a carriage incorporating an inkjet printhead where nozzles for discharging ink are arranged in a predetermined direction, and performs printing by scanning the carriage with respect to a printing medium in a direction orthogonal to the predetermined direction. The apparatus includes first and second conveyance means and selecting means. The first and second conveyance means are arranged at an upstream side and a downstream side with respect to a printing-medium conveyance direction of an area of the printing medium scanned by the printhead, for conveying the printing medium while

holding the printing medium. The selecting means selects, when the printing medium is held only by one of the first and second conveyance means, a nozzle to be used for printing from nozzles for which a distance between a discharge surface of each nozzle and a printing surface of the printing medium falls within a predetermined range, in accordance with a position of the printing medium in the printing-medium conveyance direction.

Even if the distance between the nozzles of the printhead and the printing medium differ from nozzle to nozzle as shown in Figures 7A and 7B, for example, deterioration of printing image quality at the edges of the printing medium can be avoided.

Otsuki et al. relates to a printer that can accurately position image data on the recording medium. When the printing medium is supported by a conveyance section at the upstream side as shown in Figure 8, the front side of the printing medium is printed using downstream nozzles. When the printing medium is supported by a conveyance section located at the downstream side, the trailing side of the printing medium is printed using upstream nozzles.

However, Otsuki et al. does not disclose or suggest at least when the printing medium is held by only one of first and second conveying means, setting or selecting a nozzle to be used for printing from nozzles for which a distance between a discharge surface of each nozzle and a printing surface of the printing medium falls within a predetermined range, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 7 and 8.

That is, Applicant submits that in Otsuki et al., due to support from platen 26c, the printing medium is not bent even if the printing medium is supported by only one conveyance section located at the upstream or downstream side of the medium.

Accordingly, the printer in Otsuki et al. always keep the distance between the nozzle of the printhead and the printing medium equal. The problems that the present invention can resolve never arise in Otsuki et al.

Thus, Otsuki et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Kim relates to transmitting serial data to a printhead. Nozzles to be driven simultaneously are selected to reduce interface signals between the printhead and the printer and to further simplify logic operations in the printhead to minimize the printhead logic unit. Contrary to the position in the Office Action, paragraph [0013] of Kim does not address types of printing media. Kim fails to remedy the deficiencies of Otsuki et al. noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 1, 7 and 8 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 7 and 8. Dependent Claims 2-6 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', is written over a horizontal line.

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